General Assembly

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Sixty-eighth session
Agenda item 99 (*v*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 5 December 2013

[*on the report of the First Committee (A/68/411)*]

68/45. Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the subject of chemical weapons, in particular resolution 67/54 of 3 December 2012, adopted without a vote, in which the General Assembly noted with appreciation the ongoing work to achieve the object and purpose of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction,[1]

Determined to achieve the effective prohibition of the development, production, acquisition, transfer, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and their destruction,

Noting that, since the adoption of resolution 67/54, two additional States have acceded to the Convention, namely, Somalia and the Syrian Arab Republic, bringing the total number of States parties to the Convention to 190,

Taking note of the report of the United Nations Mission to Investigate Allegations of the Use of Chemical Weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic on the alleged use of chemical weapons in the Ghouta area of Damascus on 21 August 2013,[2] in which the Mission concludes that chemical weapons have been used in the ongoing conflict between the parties in the Syrian Arab Republic, as well as against civilians, including children, on a relatively large scale,

Condemning in the strongest possible terms the use of chemical weapons,

Taking note of decision EC-M-33/DEC.1 of 27 September 2013 of the Executive Council of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and of Security Council resolution 2118 (2013) of the same date,

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1974, No. 33757.
[2] A/67/997-S/2013/553.

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Reaffirming the importance of the outcome of the Third Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, held in The Hague from 8 to 19 April 2013 (the Third Review Conference), including its consensus final report, in which the Conference addressed all aspects of the Convention and made important recommendations on its continued implementation,

Emphasizing that the Third Review Conference welcomed the fact that the Convention is a unique multilateral agreement banning an entire category of weapons of mass destruction in a non-discriminatory and verifiable manner under strict and effective international control and noted with satisfaction that the Convention continues to be a remarkable success and an example of effective multilateralism,

Convinced that the Convention, 16 years after its entry into force, has reinforced its role as the international norm against chemical weapons, and that it constitutes a major contribution to:

(*a*) International peace and security,

(*b*) Eliminating chemical weapons and preventing their re-emergence,

(*c*) The ultimate objective of general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control,

(*d*) Excluding completely, for the sake of all mankind, the possibility of the use of chemical weapons,

(*e*) Promoting international cooperation and exchange in scientific and technical information in the field of chemical activities among States parties for peaceful purposes in order to enhance the economic and technological development of all States parties,

1. *Emphasizes* that the universality of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction[1] is essential to achieving its object and purpose and to enhancing the security of States parties, as well as to international peace and security, underlines that the objectives of the Convention will not be fully realized as long as there remains even a single State not party to the Convention that could possess or acquire such weapons, and calls upon all States that have not yet done so to become parties to the Convention without delay;

2. *Underlines* that the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of all articles of the Convention makes a major contribution to international peace and security through the elimination of existing stockpiles of chemical weapons and the prohibition of their acquisition and use, and provides for assistance and protection in the event of use or threat of use of chemical weapons and for international cooperation for peaceful purposes in the field of chemical activities;

3. *Notes* the impact of scientific and technological progress on the effective implementation of the Convention and the importance for the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and its policymaking organs of taking due account of such developments;

4. *Reaffirms* that the obligation of the States parties to complete the destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles and the destruction or conversion of chemical weapons production facilities in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and the Annex on Implementation and Verification (Verification Annex)

and under the verification of the Technical Secretariat of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons is essential for the realization of the object and purpose of the Convention;

5. *Stresses* the importance to the Convention that all possessors of chemical weapons, chemical weapons production facilities or chemical weapons development facilities, including previously declared possessor States, should be among the States parties to the Convention, and welcomes progress to that end;

6. *Recalls* that the Third Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, held in The Hague from 8 to 19 April 2013 (the Third Review Conference) expressed concern regarding the statement made by the Director-General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in his report to the Executive Council of the Organization at its sixty-eighth session, provided in accordance with paragraph 2 of decision C-16/DEC.11 of 1 December 2011 adopted by the Conference of the States Parties at its sixteenth session, that three possessor States parties, namely, Libya, the Russian Federation and the United States of America, had been unable to fully meet the final extended deadline of 29 April 2012 for the destruction of their chemical weapons stockpiles, and also expressed determination that the destruction of all categories of chemical weapons should be completed in the shortest time possible in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and the Verification Annex, and with the full application of the relevant decisions that have been taken;

7. *Notes with concern* that, along with the threat of the possible production, acquisition and use of chemical weapons by States, the international community also faces the danger of the production, acquisition and use of chemical weapons by non-State actors, including terrorists, concerns which have highlighted the necessity of achieving universal adherence to the Convention, as well as the high level of readiness of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, and stresses that the full and effective implementation of all provisions of the Convention, including those on national implementation (article VII) and assistance and protection (article X), constitutes an important contribution to the efforts of the United Nations in the global fight against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations;

8. *Emphasizes* that the full implementation of the provisions of the Convention at the national level, including the timely submission of accurate and complete declarations in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, and updates to those declarations, is essential to ensuring the efficiency and effectiveness of the Convention regime;

9. *Notes* that the effective application of the verification system builds confidence in compliance with the Convention by States parties;

10. *Stresses* the importance of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in verifying compliance with the provisions of the Convention as well as in promoting the timely and efficient accomplishment of all its objectives;

11. *Urges* all States parties to the Convention to meet in full and on time their obligations under the Convention and to support the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in its implementation activities;

12. *Welcomes* progress made in the national implementation of article VII obligations, commends the States parties and the Technical Secretariat for assisting other States parties, on request, with the implementation of the follow-up to the plan of action regarding article VII obligations, urges States parties that have not fulfilled

their obligations under article VII to do so without further delay, in accordance with their constitutional processes, and notes that the Third Review Conference noted the commitment of States parties to adopt, in accordance with constitutional processes, the measures necessary to fully implement their obligations under the Convention as a matter of priority and to keep the effectiveness of these measures under review;

13. *Emphasizes* the continuing relevance and importance of the provisions of article X of the Convention, welcomes the activities of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in relation to assistance and protection against chemical weapons, supports further efforts by both States parties and the Technical Secretariat to promote a high level of readiness to respond to chemical weapons threats as articulated in article X, and welcomes the effectiveness and efficiency of the increased focus on making full use of regional and subregional capacities and expertise, including taking advantage of established training centres;

14. *Acknowledges with appreciation* the establishment of the International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons and of a voluntary trust fund for that purpose;

15. *Reaffirms* that the provisions of the Convention shall be implemented in a manner that avoids hampering the economic or technological development of States parties and international cooperation in the field of chemical activities for purposes not prohibited under the Convention, including the international exchange of scientific and technical information, and chemicals and equipment for the production, processing or use of chemicals for purposes not prohibited under the Convention;

16. *Underlines* that the comprehensive implementation of article XI of the Convention reinforces capacity-building in each State party and, in doing so, reinforces the ability of States parties to fully implement the Convention, and in this context also underlines the importance of assistance and national capacity-building in the field of chemical activities for purposes not prohibited under the Convention;

17. *Commends* the adoption of decision C-16/DEC.10 of 1 December 2011 on the components of an agreed framework for the full implementation of article XI by the Conference of the States Parties at its sixteenth session, and recognizes that the decision provides guidance for the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of article XI and identifies avenues for further work that would advance its objectives;

18. *Notes with appreciation* the ongoing work of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to achieve the object and purpose of the Convention, to ensure the full implementation of its provisions, including those for international verification of compliance with it, and to provide a forum for consultation and cooperation among States parties;

19. *Commends* the desire expressed at the Third Review Conference to improve interaction with the chemical industry, the scientific community, academia and civil society organizations engaged in issues relevant to the Convention, and to cooperate as appropriate with other relevant international and regional organizations, in promoting the goals of the Convention;

20. *Welcomes* the cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons within the framework of the

relationship agreement between the United Nations and the Organization,[3] in accordance with the provisions of the Convention;

21. *Also welcomes* the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize for 2013 to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons for its extensive efforts to eliminate chemical weapons;

22. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session, under the item entitled "General and complete disarmament", the sub-item entitled "Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction".

60th plenary meeting
5 December 2013

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[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2160, No. 1240.